



## This is an official **DHEC Health Update**

Distributed via Health Alert Network  
December 21, 2012, 10:30AM  
10273-DHU-12-21-2012-BOL

### **Sample Collection and Shipping Guidelines for the Bureau of Labs During the Upcoming Holiday**

#### **Summary**

This Health Update is to provide information regarding the limited testing capability available from the SC DHEC Bureau of Laboratories for the period from 12-22-2012 through 12-26-2012.

#### **Guidance**

The SCDHEC Bureau of Laboratories (BoL) will not be open for five continuous days from 12-22-2012 through 12-26-2012.

Due to the time sensitive nature of some of the testing performed by the BoL, the following guidelines are provided for sample collection and shipping of specimens.

This guidance pertains **only** to specimens that are: routinely tested by the BoL for follow-up, confirmatory or genotyping, or as part of an ongoing response to an event of public health significance (i.e. outbreak).

- **Serology testing** for Rubella, Hepatitis A, B & C tests can be collected for testing after the holiday break.
  - These samples only require refrigeration over the extended holiday.
  - If collected in a serum separator tube (SST), store at laboratory refrigerator temperature until shipment.
  - If not collected in an SST, serum must be separated and stored at laboratory refrigerator temperature until shipment.
  - Hepatitis B tests specimens will need to have the serum transferred to another tube so that it can be frozen and then shipped after the holiday break.
- **Clinical Microbiology testing** should not be sent over the holiday.
  - Hold, store specimens appropriately, and send on Thursday 12/27/2012.
  - Specimens requested for testing for *Haemophilus* or *Neisseria* **must** be held in a CO<sub>2</sub> incubator.
  - Specimens for culture for *Bordetella pertussis* should not be collected to be sent to the BoL during this period.
  - All other specimens for microbiology testing can be stored at ambient temperatures and submitted to the BoL on Thursday 12-27-2012.
- **Stool specimens for enteric and/or viral testing** should not be collected and sent to the BoL during this period.
  - However, if collection is needed, due to symptom presentation/association with an ongoing investigation, collect and hold all specimens at laboratory freezer temperature until shipment.
- **All other specimens for virology testing** need to be transferred to viral transport media and stored at laboratory freezer temperature until shipment.

If there is an **urgent** need for any of above tests to be performed between Friday 12/21/2012 and Wednesday 12/27/2012, please contact your Regional Public Health Office or the Division of Acute Disease Epidemiology at the Night/weekend/holiday numbers listed below for consultation.

## DHEC contact information for reportable diseases and reporting requirements

Reporting of diseases is consistent with South Carolina Law requiring the reporting of diseases and conditions to your state or local public health department. (State Law # 44-29-10 and Regulation # 61-20) as per the DHEC 2012 List of Reportable Conditions available at:

<http://www.scdhec.gov/health/disease/reportables.htm>

Federal HIPAA legislation allows disclosure of protected health information, without consent of the individual, to public health authorities to collect and receive such information for the purpose of preventing or controlling disease. (HIPAA 45 CFR §164.512).

## Regional Public Health Offices – 2012

### Mail or call reports to the Epidemiology Office in each Public Health Region.

#### **Region 1**

**Anderson, Oconee**  
220 McGee Road  
Anderson, SC 29625  
Phone: (864) 260-4358  
Fax: (864) 260-5623  
Nights / Weekends: 1-866-298-4442

#### **Abbeville, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Saluda**

1736 S. Main Street  
Greenwood, SC 29646  
Phone: 1-888-218-5475  
Fax: (864) 942-3690  
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-420-1915

#### **Region 2**

**Greenville, Pickens**  
PO Box 2507  
200 University Ridge  
Greenville, SC 29602-2507  
Phone: (864) 282-4139  
Fax: (864) 282-4373  
Nights / Weekends: (864) 809-3825

#### **Cherokee, Spartanburg, Union**

PO Box 4217  
151 E. Wood Street  
Spartanburg, SC 29305-4217  
Phone: (864) 596-2227, x- 210  
Fax: (864) 596-3443  
Nights / Weekends: (864) 809-3825

#### **Region 3**

**Chester, Lancaster, York**  
PO Box 817  
1833 Pageland Highway  
Lancaster, SC 29720  
Phone: (803) 286-9948  
Fax: (803) 286-5418  
Nights / Weekends: 1-866-867-3886

#### **Region 3 (continued)**

**Fairfield, Lexington, Newberry, Richland**  
2000 Hampton Street  
Columbia, SC 29204  
Phone: (803) 576-2749  
Fax: (803) 576-2993  
Nights / Weekends: 1-888-554-9915

#### **Region 4**

**Clarendon, Kershaw, Lee, Sumter**  
PO Box 1628  
105 North Magnolia Street  
Sumter, SC 29150  
Phone: (803) 773-5511  
Fax: (803) 775-9941  
Nights/Weekends: (803) 458-1847

#### **Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Marlboro, Marion**

145 E. Cheves Street  
Florence, SC 29506  
Phone: (843) 661-4830  
Fax: (843) 661-4859  
Nights / Weekends: (843) 601-7051

#### **Region 5**

**Bamberg, Calhoun, Orangeburg**  
PO Box 1126  
1550 Carolina Avenue  
Orangeburg, SC 29116  
Phone: (803) 533-7199  
Fax: (803) 533-7134  
Nights / Weekends: (803) 516-5166

#### **Aiken, Allendale, Barnwell**

222 Beaufort Street, NE  
Aiken, SC 29801  
Phone: (803) 642-1618  
Fax: (803) 643-8386  
Nights / Weekends: (803) 645-8167

#### **Region 6**

**Georgetown, Horry, Williamsburg**  
1931 Industrial Park Road  
Conway, SC 29526-5482  
Phone: (843) 915-8804  
Fax: (843) 365-0085  
Nights / Weekends: (843) 340-4754

#### **Region 7**

**Berkeley, Charleston, Dorchester**  
4050 Bridge View Drive, Suite 600  
N. Charleston, SC 29405  
Phone: (843) 953-0047  
Fax: (843) 953-0051  
Nights / Weekends: (843) 219-8470

#### **Region 8**

**Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, Jasper**  
219 S. Lemacks Street  
Walterboro, SC 29488  
Phone: (843) 605-3407  
Fax: (843) 549-6845  
Nights / Weekends: 1-843-441-1091

#### **DHEC Bureau of Disease Control Division of Acute Disease Epidemiology**

1751 Calhoun Street  
Box 101106  
Columbia, SC 29211  
Phone: (803) 898-0861  
Fax: (803) 898-0897  
Nights / Weekends: 1-888-847-0902



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